

Montana Laboratory Sentinel



Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau
800-821-7284 www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

9/2/2011



CAP Survey: LPX-B...

...to be shipped September 6, 2011!

Organisms that sentinel labs cannot rule out as select agents should be referred to the Montana Public Health Laboratory for confirmation. This is an important aspect of this preparedness exercise. Remember to contact the State Public Health Laboratory with any questions and before referring your cultures for confirmation: **800-821-7284 or 406-444-3444.**

- ✓ Refer to www.asm.org for sentinel laboratory guidelines. Call before sending cultures to the state.
- ✓ Properly complete **one** Montana Public Health Laboratory Standard Laboratory Testing Requisition form per culture.
One culture per biohazard bag!
- ✓ Cultures should be triple packaged (primary container; leakproof secondary container with absorbent and marked with biohazard symbol; rigid outer container with proper address and UN3373 label)
- ✓ Call us with any questions—we are here for you!!

CAP Laboratory Preparedness Exercise (CAP-LPX)

The CAP-LPX is an educational exercise that was developed by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). The purpose of the exercise is to provide laboratories with the opportunity to assess their capabilities to detect pathogens of epidemiologic importance, including pathogens that can be used as biothreat agents. Participation in this exercise will test and help to strengthen the following aspects of your facility's bioterrorism response:

- Rule out and refer using Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Sentinel Laboratory and American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Sentinel Laboratory Guidelines
- Exercise the correct plan for notifying the appropriate personnel at the nearest LRN Reference Laboratory (i.e. the Montana Public Health Laboratory) of potential bioterrorism organisms
- Practice the proper packaging and shipping of Category A and Category B agents.
- Iterate the safety implications of handling suspected organisms in clinical isolates and cultures.

Exercise materials will be shipped to your facility biannually. The agents provided are not select agents. Instead, they are modified strains of *Bacillus anthracis*, *Yersinia pestis*, *Francisella tularensis*, and *Brucella abortus*. Participating laboratories should have a properly functioning and certified Class II biological safety cabinet:

(www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/bisfty/bmb15/bmb1569c.htm) and the capability to process Category A and B agents (www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/agentlist-category.asp).

Product information can be found in the CAP Surveys Catalog or online at www.cap.org. To order, contact the CAP Customer Contact Center, (800) 323-4040, option 1, to speak with a CAP Customer Contact Center Representative.

The Montana Public Health Laboratory will reimburse labs for their participation in this program. If interested, please contact us for more information.

